

# 2010 Connecting Youth with Nature Through Natural Resources Conservation Education Award



Leadership in Conservation ⇌ Wildlife and/or Fisheries Stewardship ⇌ Connecting Youth & Program Leaders with Nature  
Interactive ⇌ Physical Activity ⇌ Youth-Directed Time in Nature ⇌ Conservation Partnerships ⇌ Technology

**What is the award?** The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and 4-H National Headquarters, USDA collaborate to recognize a 4-H *Program of Distinction* that connects youth with nature. The awardee will receive \$10,000 and travel funds for up to 5 program representatives, including youth, to accept the award at the 75<sup>th</sup> North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conservation Conference in March 2010.

**What are Programs of Distinction?** Programs of Distinction are peer-reviewed collections of high quality youth development programs. They exhibit strong program development characteristics and contribute to the field; convey new ideas, materials, or innovative methods; and demonstrate changes in knowledge, behaviors, attitudes or aspirations of 4-H youth and adults.

**What programs are eligible for this award?** 4-H Programs of Distinction are eligible, except for past awardees.

**What is the focus of this award?** The scoring criteria focus on aspects of program design, content, and implementation that:

- Promote **leadership** development or support in the area of conservation;
- Include **stewardship** components that support informed, responsible wildlife and/or fisheries management;
- Foster **natural resource conservation** by deliberately getting program participants and leaders outside and connected with nature;
- Are **interactive** in a way that enhances learning about natural resources;
- Promote/include **physical activity**;
- Promote **youth-directed time in nature**; and
- Utilize and build on **partnerships** to accomplish its goals and objectives – partnerships with state and federal natural resource agencies, conservation NGOs, and conservation business/industry.

Additional points will be given to those programs that have been operating for at least 3 years and include technology in a way that enhances learning about natural resources.

**When is the application due?** The award application is due **October 16, 2009**; it will be available online in June.

**How does a program achieve Program of Distinction status?** Send a Programs of Distinction submission form to [pod@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:pod@csrees.usda.gov) at any time. For this award, submit **no later than July 20**—this allows for the minimum recommended time for an applicant to complete the peer review process. Program of Distinction status must be achieved by **October 2** for this award.

**When will the awardee be announced?** The awardee will be announced December 1, after FWS convenes a panel to review manuscripts and applications.

For more information about Programs of Distinction, and to download the submission form, visit <http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/>. Questions? Email [pod@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:pod@csrees.usda.gov).